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AUG 30 2006

REMARKS

In the final office action dated June 1, 2006, claims 1-21 were pending. Claims 8, 18 and 19 were indicated as allowable but objected to for depending from a rejected base claims. Claims 1-7, 9-17, 20 and 21 stand finally rejected. Claim 10-15 and 18 have been cancelled in this response, claims 1, 5, 8, 16 and 19 have been amended, and claims 30-35 have been added. Withdrawal of the final rejection and entry of this amendment long with allowance of claims 1-9, 16-17, 190-21 and 30-35 is respectfully requested.

Applicants' reply filed on August 1, 2006 was not entered because it was considered to raise new issues requiring further consideration and search. The present amendment is provided to present the allowable but objected to claims in a condition for allowance, and to cancel rejected claims without prejudice to pursuit in a continuing application.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claim 8, and is thus believed allowable as indicated in the office action. Claim 5 is amended to provide consistency with amended claim 1. Claim 8 has been amended to recite "wherein the body portion includes a second flange opposite the at least one flange, the second flange extending from the distal end towards the proximal end of the body portion; and advancing the cutting instrument includes advancing the cutting instrument over the body portion between the body portion and each of the flanges." Claims 2-9 as amended are allowable at least since each depends directly or indirectly from now allowable claim 1.

Claims 10-15 have been cancelled without prejudice to pursuit in a continuing application.

Claim 16 has been amended to include the features of claim 18, and is thus believed allowable as indicated in the office action. Claim 18 has been cancelled, and claim 19 has been amended to recite "further comprising depositing cut material into a cavity formed in the body portion, the cavity opening toward at least one of upper and lower surfaces of the body portion." Claims 17 and 19-21 depending directly or indirectly from claim 16 are allowable at least since claim 16 is allowable.

New claims 30-35 have been added. New claim 30 is directed to the combination of original claims 16 and 19. Claims 31-34 depend from claim 30, and correspond to

Amendment and Response to Final Office Action
USSN 10/625,418
Atty Docket No. 4002-3363/PC459.06
Page 8 of 9

original claims 17-18 and 20-21, respectively. New claim 35 recites "further comprising depositing cut material into a cavity formed in the body portion, the cavity opening toward at least one of upper and lower surfaces of the body portion." Claims 31-35 are believed allowable since each depends from an allowable base claim 30.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application as amended and including claims 1-9, 16-17, 19-21 and 30-35 in view of this response is respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned by telephone to resolve any outstanding matters concerning the present application.

Respectfully submitted:



Douglas A. Collier
Reg. No. 43,556
Krieg DeVault LLP
One Indiana Square, Suite 2800
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2079
Bus.: (317) 238-6333

Amendment and Response to Final Office Action
USSN 10/625,418
Atty Docket No. 4002-3363/PC459.06
Page 9 of 9